Poor mobile phone service

2333. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several districts of Andhra Pradesh, particularly, Hyderabad are facing great difficulties due to poor mobile phone service of BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir. Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Cellular Mobile Telephone Service being provide by BSNL is working satisfactorily in all Districts of Andhra Pradesh including Hyderabad, in general, meeting the Quality of Service (QoS) parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Capping on the number of service providers

2334. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of reference, if any, made by Government to TRAI with regards to capping on the number of service providers based on limitation of spectrum, citing Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) judgment dated 31 March, 2009;

(b) whether Government is seeking a cap on number of Unified Access Service (UAS) licenses due to shortage of spectrum;

(c) whether Government has revealed publicly how much spectrum is available in each circle before making such a reference; and

(d) whether Government proposes to change its policy to overcome the judicial decision in S. Tel matter of July 2009 that has held the cut off date 25 September, 2007 illegal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Hon'ble TDSAT (Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal), in para 116 of its judgment dated 31.3.2009, in Petition No. 286 of 2007 in the matter of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and Others *Vs.* Union of India and Others, has observed that DoT (Department of Telecom) would be well advised to review the policy of no capping keeping in view the various relevant parameters and take an appropriate decision. In view of above observation of Hon'ble TDSAT and scarcity of spectrum, on 22.07.2009, Government has sought recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on the policy of no capping on the number of Access Service providers in each service area in terms of pending applications.

(c) Separately, on 7th July 2009, Government has sought the recommendations of TRAI on the recommendations/comments of the Report dated 13.05.2009 of the Committee of DoT on 'Allocation of Access {GSM (Global System for Mobile communications)/CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access)} Spectrum and Pricing'. The Annexure A3-1 of the Report dated 13.05.2009 of the Committee, contains the availability of spectrum in each service area as on 30.04.2009. Further, the Chapter 1 of the Consultation Paper of TRAI issued on 16.10.2009 on "Overall Spectrum Management and review of license terms and conditions", contains the availability of spectrum in various bands. Copy of the above said Report of the Committee and Consultation Paper of TRAI is available in public domain at the website of TRAI.

(d) On 03.12.2009, Government had filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) No. 33406 of 2009 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the judgement dated 24.11.2009 of the Division Bench of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in LPA No. 338 of 2009 in the matter of Union of India *Vs.* Tel Ltd.

Telephone facility/connectivity in Nagaland

2335. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Nagaland not having telephone facility/connectivity;

(b) the total number of waiting list of applicants in each districts of Nagaland for various services, such as Mobile, WLL, landline, etc. under BSNL;

(c) whether any time bound programme, district-wise has been made for providing the facility to the waiting list people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) As on 31/10/2009, 65 villages in Nagaland are uncovered with Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility;

(b) There is no waiting list of applicants in any district of Nagaland for services such as Mobile, WLL, landline etc. under BSNL.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Telephone exchanges in Orissa

2336. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of telephone exchanges operating in Orissa at present and the installed capacity thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges and enhance the installed capacity of the existing exchanges during the year 2009-10;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and